

# True to Code of the Gang Until Death Closes Eyes

A MAN dying in Gouverneur hospital from a bullet wound shook hands this morning with another man, accused of having shot him, and said, with a grin, somewhat forced and ghastly, "Hello, Scoop," says the New York Evening Post. Then to the detectives who had caught Scoop, the dying man said, "Why, of course he ain't the man who did me; he's my old pal."

From this simple statement of facts it is not to be inferred that Billy Hughes, the man with a bullet hole through his body, was in a forgiving mood and wished while lying at the point of death to do one act of kindness and magnanimity to save a fellow being from punishment. No, at all. Billy and Scoop were simply rival gangsters, brought together in the routine of their own warfare, and of the business of the detectives for the customary death-bed identification scene, a scene which seldom turns out as the police hope.

The man on the hospital cot was looking of course to get well and attend to Scoop himself, according to the code of the gangs. He did not wish to help the police put his rival out of his reach.

Hence the handshake and the "Hello, Scoop."

Two hours earlier, when Detective Summitt caught Ladd, Scupolo, better known as Scoop, as he climbed down the fire escapes from the rear window of the third floor of No. 39 High street, Brooklyn, and pointed a six-caliber revolver at his head, the prisoner exclaimed: "I am in bad for this. Did he shoot?" I've got two bullet wounds in my back and I never snatched."

Besides the admission, the detectives say that they have the evidence of several witnesses who will swear that they saw Scoop shoot Billy Hughes at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the corner of Henry and Market streets.

To begin at the beginning, Billy has a brother, Paddy Hughes, alias John McCarthy, who returned from Dunmore prison a week ago, after a long sentence for holding up lone tourists in the dark hallways of Chinatown and robbing them. This method for entrapping his victims is to offer his services as guide through Chinatown to lone tourists exclusively. He lets others take the crowds.

Scoop is a member of a gang which regards the Hughes outfit as its rival. Both groups camp in the vicinity of the Mandarin restaurant in Chinatown. Paddy Hughes offended Scoop's gang, whom that would have been passed around that his brother was to be murdered. So he got Fred Borgani, a bartender in one of Chinatown's white resorts, to take word to Paddy of his danger.

Borgani went over to the Mandarin restaurant building to convey the warning message. But Paddy had heard of his danger and was on guard against sudden attack. When Borgani entered the dark hallway, Paddy stabbed the friendly messenger, twisting the knife around three times to make sure that his work would be good. Borgani is dying at St. Gregory's hospital.

The messenger's cry brought the other Hughes to the hallway on the run. When he saw what had happened to the bartender and the peril looming up for his brother, he grabbed Paddy and started him on his run to cover. The two men fled across Chatham Square to East Broadway and down East Broadway into Market street, where they met Scoop and several members of his gang.

There was a truce for a minute. Billy tried to make peace between Scoop and his gang, but the latter preferred fighting, naturally, so all hands fell to shooting, and Billy Hughes got the wound that will rob this gang of its leader. Incidentally one of the bullets went wild and struck Pessie Falk, a 10-year-old girl of 23 Market street, who was standing near the door of her home. The bullet entered her right leg, and she was removed to the hospital in the same ambulance with Hughes.

Scoop took to his heels, with a mob in pursuit. He sped through Henry to Birmingham street, which is only a block long, and which is lined with six and seven-story loft buildings. Here he fired back at the crowd and halted it, and then he dodged into a hallway, ran up the stairs to the roof, across the



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tops of several of the loft buildings, back to the street, and into a taxicab which happened to be passing, and then on to Brooklyn.

Paddy Hughes had not joined in the chase. He had stayed by his injured brother until the ambulance had taken the man away to the hospital. To the police who pressed him for the name of the assailant, he would say nothing. Detectives know the fatality of asking gangsters to "peach," so they turned their efforts to some of the spectators, who described the fugitive who had done the shooting as a man with a long scar running from his ear to his nose. This description was sufficient for headquarters, which has a record of a gang fight in which Scoop received that cut across the face. They also knew Scupolo's ways and haunts, so they went to the house on High street, accompanied by three policemen, and went upstairs and pounded on a door three flights up. Detective Lemon had, meanwhile, taken up his post in the back yard, so when the gang man came down the iron ladders, he caught him at the ground.

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### THE WAY OF THE RATTLESNAKE

As far as we know, the only good that can be said of a rattlesnake is that he warns before he strikes. If you stop upon him the time elapsing between the rattling warning and the strike is not a matter of minutes or very many seconds, in fact, it may seem synchronous, the rattle and the bite.

The skin of a fine six foot, many-butt rattlesnake will make up into showy belts, pocket books, etc., and in this way a use is found for him. Yes, again,

rattlesnake oil, infallible in rheumatism, is also a product and, in a pinch may be eaten. But, inasmuch as there are plenty of other things out of which to make belts and pocket books; that the shelves of the druggist are heavy with "snake-cure" rheumatism remedies; and, in the presence of other things to eat, you again find yourself asking just what economic purposes a rattlesnake performs in nature, except, perhaps, to help balance it.

He wouldn't, he such a bad fellow were it not for those hypodermic needles and the little syringes filled with yellow lightning venom in his upper jaws, well to the rear. He's a good surgeon and knows exactly how to send the venom home the moment the needle has pierced its way. If he is striking his teeth will point forward and puncture you like tiny stilettos, and when holding his prey they point well inward, this being entirely a matter of control, the teeth being set in muscles in the roof of the mouth.

On the plains they enjoy the warmth of your blanket provided they can run the gamut of your hair and scalp. Liberties a rattlesnake would allow you to take in the way of shaking him out of your blanket or kicking him out into his own country, he would not know or incline to think that, like the frozen viper warned to life, he would not hesitate to rattle and strike.

The venom is full of stinging remedies, from the magic stone that, when placed against the wound, turns green because of the poison absorbed, and the old standby, whiskey. Now, there are those who bitten would succumb rather than admit that whiskey saved their life, and there are those who would risk the bite of a rattlesnake to enjoy the sensation of holding a quart or two of whiskey and remaining sober.

That's a curious thing about the venom of a rattlesnake; it seems to take the full oil out of whiskey and leaves it as harmless as spring water.

Ligaturing of the arm or leg, incising and sucking the poison from the wound, and the application of chemicals to the spot are recommended, but, to our idea, if we were to advertise an absolutely sure and certain remedy for rattlesnake bite, on receipt of one dollar, we would write back at once, on a postal card,

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so everybody might know the good news, "don't get bitten!"

Again, come to think of it, the Indians found rattlesnakes useful in a narrow poison. They would cut off the heads of rattlers, adding a few tarantulas, stew the mess down and dip their arrows in it. They too used the rattlesnake as an instrument of torture, pinning a prisoner to the ground and then tying the rattlesnake by the tail to a peg, using a leather thong, the rattlesnake being within half an inch of striking distance of the face of the prostrate prisoner. And there snake and man would be left until the rain came, when the thong soaked and stretching, the snake could at last be avenged on his supposed tormentor. Days after a blackened corpse with a swollen head, the face marked with a rich of striking distance of the face of the prostrate prisoner. And there snake and man would be left until the rain came, when the thong soaked and stretching, the snake could at last be avenged on his supposed tormentor. Days after a blackened corpse with a swollen head, the face marked with a rich of striking distance of the face of the prostrate prisoner.

No doubt many uses can be found for a rattlesnake's existence and yet when you are in a pinch with you and your one within range, you kill it on principle, not that you are afraid of it biting you, but that there is a chance of it biting the next thing, human or otherwise, that comes along.

We've heard of denaturing the rattlesnakes by thrusting a silk handkerchief at the snake, provoking it to strike and jerking the silk quickly

away, tearing the fangs loose. And with the fangs out then the poison sacs can be removed, as you would cut a tumor, when his snakeship becomes a respectable member of the community for the first time.

When in confinement behind a glass partition he will resent too close an inspection and will spit his venom against the glass with considerable force.

He loves to bask in the open and will sometimes lie stretched at full length in the dusty road for an hour or so. And when the cold weather approaches he will crawl into a rocky crevice and remain in a comatose condition until the warm spring sun draws him forth from his den to again begin his battle for existence.

There may be those who, even in the case of a rattlesnake, can practise the proverb of live and let live, but in our experience we rarely, if ever, have met a rattler or knew a man who did, but what the overmastering desire to slay prevailed.—San Francisco Call.

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